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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **June 2015**

May, 2015, meeting minutes

The May, 2015, meeting of the VVRC was opened by our Vice President, Kim – KI6JNX, at 19:20 hr. with a review of the previous month's discussion points of the proposed Oct. 3 swap meet, after which he opened the subject to the membership in attendance.

"*KUDO*s" to Bruce – N6THN, for volunteering his services to generate the necessary flyers, once we have the event details finalized.

The ensuing discussion became quite lively while touching upon many topics, including: the cost of the club liability insurance; the cost of the needed "porta-potties" for the meet; and the latest addition to the list – the cost of a catering truck for snacks and food. The leadership was once *again* reminded that the proposed Oct. 3, date has always been in direct conflict with the California CQP contest, an annual event that a number of active VVRC members have been committed to since last October, 2014, precluding their participation in the swap meet.

After becoming more than a little bogged down in the discussions by so many unanswered questions, a suggestion was made from the floor to "table" the topic for the evening and devote the remaining time to the upcoming Field Day, which is only one month away.
Kim asked for a vote on the suggestion, and with the "ayes" in favor, the swap meet discussion was closed until another time.

During this pause in the proceedings, our Treasurer, Bob – K6HEW, briefed the membership on the financial health of the club, reporting: $616 in the Project Fund; $284 dedicated to Skipp May and the repeater (fund); $2,616 in the General Fund; and after tonight, $117 in the Prize Fund.

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Bob also reminded us that since it was proposed in the April meeting to raise the VVRC membership dues to $25 to afford the cost of the new liability insurance, the By-Laws required a formal vote to affirm or deny the proposal. Kim called for a vote and the "ayes" were unanimous. The proposal was officially accepted.

It was then brought to our attention that our President's daughter, Katie Lewis, had been kind enough to take time to update and re-format the VVRC membership application so to reflect the changes in the membership dues and their new due dates.
So Katie, please accept a hearty Thank ***You!*** from the VVRC for your help!

The discussion then moved to ***Field Day –2015***, which will be June 27 – 28.

Once again this year, the Vidal family has graciously volunteered the use of their property up in English Hills for our operating site.

Continued on Page 2------->

IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes for May 2015----------1 & 2
Field Day Info----------2 & 3
No More Vanity Call Sign Fee----------3
W6QXB Dies ---------- ----------4
New HF Operats Tip----------4
Repeater Pet Peeves----------4
RCC Award----------5
Application and Misc----------6

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS
President: Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
Vice President: Kim, KJ6JNX
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS
Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

In an initial "over-view" of the event, the tentative plan is to use the highly successful event of last year as a template for this year. While only in the planning stages, the proposal is that we again set up stations for – and using equipment furnished by: 80 & 40 – Bruce - N6THN; 20 – Steve – KJ6KIH; 15 - Jerry – KD6WKY and/or Brian KK6BXP; and 10 - Richard – KJ6MIB.

The idea of limiting the number of stations, all in such close proximity to each other, and all on the air at any one time has a couple key benefits, the chief being: it would help to reduce as much as possible some of the cross modulation and interference between transmitters and receivers, preventing damage to the equipment in use, and yet still allow us to work all the bands.

Additionally, doing it this way, other members don't have to bring their own gear to participate, and can instead rotate through and operate the different stations as the bands and propagation changes throughout the day and night.

However, if a member feels that he or she **must** use their personal rig instead during a watch, it wouldn't be much of a problem to simply insert their rig into a position and use the power and antenna already provided for that band. Then the decision can be made to either continue to use their rig, or move the coax and power back to the original rig when the operator finishes their watch. Simple – right?

Again – nothing is set in concrete at this point, and we do need to remember that this IS a team effort that can be a LOT of fun if we're all willing to work together and help each other out.

The matter of meals was brought up and some tasty suggestions were made, however, nothing definite was decided. The most promising and fool-proof idea seemed to be that the members bring their own meals.

The Vidals have offered to provide a grill if members want to cook a burger, or ???

Because there is still SO much to be worked out, we really need your input folks. To that end, Brian – KK6BXP, was good enough to set up an on-line forum to pass info / ask questions / share ideas / advise of equipment availability / ask for help/ — you name it… anything goes! By now you all should have started to see emails from the site - vvrc-fd-2015@googlegroups.com arriving in your email IN-boxes. That was a really a stroke of genius Brian – Thanks!

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At this point, the hour was getting late, so the discussion was suspended until a later time. However, we absolutely had to address the last two items of business before we adjourned:

1) The June meeting will be a no-host dinner meeting at 18:30 hr., Thur., June 11, at Mary's Pizza Shack, 505 Davis St. Vacaville (in the Brendon Theatre parking lot). This is traditionally a family affair where wives and significant others are cordially invited.

2) And finally…. the winner of the monthly drawing for May was: (drum roll please….) ***Lauren Vidal – K6LIV!*** Congratulations Lauren!!

So, approaching the bewitching hour, and having nothing else to discuss… the meeting was adjourned. Barbara and I look forward to seeing all of you at the June dinner!

Respectfully submitted,
***"Skip"* Lawson – AF6HC**

Field Day 2015 Info

Field Day 2014 was the best event our club has had in years. We had total cooperation from everybody involved and there was no arguing about whose toys we would use. Let's keep the fun rolling again in 2015. As the club Field Day coordinator, I have organized the event as follows:

Field Day Stations by Band

40m/80m	Bruce N6THN w/gear
20m	Steve KJ6KIH w/gear
15m	Brian KK6BXP w/gear
10m	Richard KJ6MIB w/gear
Power	Jorge KK4XU w/gear
Site	Jorge KK4XU w/shade
Porta-Potty	Skip AF6HC w/magazine rack
Food	It's bring your own food. Grill provided.

These are the six committed operators that we have so far to set up their stations for the weekend. Everyone is welcome to operate a station, everyone is welcome to bring their own radio.

It is not necessary to bring all your gear if you are joining the club for Field Day, but if you feel it

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necessary to use your own radio, that's fine. I do not recommend that you bring any antennas, power supplies, or other radio gear you normally use at home, it isn't necessary.

Typically the enthusiasm of operating in the field brings the thoughts of I must bring everything I own to Field Day just in case I have to use all my own equipment or my dipole antenna is better than your dipole antenna so I must put up my wire next to your wire antenna. We don't need this.

The four stations will be set up ready to go. People can change out and sit in whenever they want to operate. If you want to use your own radio, just plug it in using the antenna already erected for that station.

Everybody will use the club call sign W6VVR, no exceptions. This is a club event. If someone feels the need to use their personal call sign, they should operate as an individual at a site they organize and set up.

Our category will be a 4A which is club station, four transmitters. There is no such thing as high power in Field Day, 100 watts is the max.

Let's keep the fun in Field Day with cooperation, lots of smiles, and staying safe.

Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

FCC Eliminating Vanity Call Sign Fee

Ref: ARRL

The FCC is dropping the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order* (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is $21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly $246,100.

In its 2014 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* (*NPRM*) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent *Report and Order* (*R&O*) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its elimination.

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

THE BIT BUCKET

WB6QXE, Last Living Golden Gate Bridge Worker Dies

Ref: The Associated Press May 31, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO — 98-year-old Gustave Villata who died Tuesday was likely the last living person who worked on the Golden Gate Bridge.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Gus Villalta died at a hospital in San Jose just one day before the 78th anniversary of the bridge's opening.

His son, Los Banos Mayor Michael Villalta, called his father a humble man.

The Italian-born Villata landed a job as an electrician's assistant after graduating in the midst of the Great Depression. He was paid 75 cents an hour to pass wire to more experienced workers on the south tower.

He served in the army in World War II and then settled in Los Banos, where he became well-known.

Villalta had a ham radio station, ran Gus' Radio and Television repair shop until he was 88 years old and stopped to talk to friends on his daily afternoon walk through town.

NEW HF OPERATORS

Do you ever wonder what happens just outside our ham bands? The annual Armed Forces Communications Test gives you an opportunity to find out!

Listen outside the bands for military stations calling CQ, announcing a listening frequency somewhere in our bands.

You'll get a nice QSL in the mail if you make contact!

Get your radio set for "split" operation and check that VFO A/B indicator before making a transmission - maybe it's just me but accidentally QRMing a station with the call letters WAR doesn't seem like such a terrific idea.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Frank Garay; KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

Pet Peeves I hear on the Repeater

1. Signing off by saying seventy three. Wrong! It is seven three. Two separate numbers.

2. Asking someone what is their handle. Coffee pots have handles, radio amateurs have names.

3. Asking someone for a signal report through the repeater. Really? If you can make the repeater, the receiver can only hear how you sound as a retransmission. Think about it.

4. Talking before keying your microphone.

5. Not leaving space between transmissions during a conversation which leads to stations talking over the top of each other because nobody can get in between party A and B.

6. Talking like you have marbles in your mouth.

7. After signing off from a conversation, the other station keeps asking questions as if the conversation never ended. Then, the station that signed off answers back. What?

8. The use of a non-word destinated. There is no such word.

9. Not identifying every 10 minutes. Self-explanatory.

10. Discussing your aches and pains and your last proctology exam on the air. You get my drift. Think about what you say on the air regarding your health.

Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

The Rag Chewers' Club Award (RCC) via SPAR

A couple of days ago I was reminiscing about the old days by looking through my old QSL cards and bingo, there was the card from W6UJO who recommended me for the RCC award.

On September 8, 1953, Eugene Schmitt, W6UJO, Escondido, CA recommended me for a RCC Award (Rag Chewers Certificate). I was still a novice operating on 40 meter CW.

At the end of a 85 minute QSO he said that he would send my call sign into the ARRL for a RCC award. About three weeks later I received my first ham radio award certificate.

The certificate has been lost since then and I had hoped that there was a way to at least get a copy of the original award. I asked several members of the VVRC if they had a RCC certificate but all had never heard of the award. I could always use photoshop to install my name and call letters on it. While it wouldn't be an official certificate, at least I would have something to hang on the wall and it would have the correct info on it.But…no luck even when searched for one on the net.

The Rag Chewers' Club award was offered by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for many years. It was initially free of charge and very popular, especially for new hams. Later the ARRL began charging for the award and its popularity waned. Finally, in 2004, the ARRL decided to discontinue the award due to lack of interest. In view of the history and goodwill embodied in this most noble of ham radio activities, Rag Chewing, SPAR has reactivated this unique and illustrious award.

The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) now offers the ever popular Rag Chewers' Club award. This prestigious award is available to all amateur radio operators who submit evidence of having "chewed the rag" using amateur radio.

One of the most popular ham activities is simply chatting about nothing in particular. In other words, chewing the fat, or in ham jargon, "Rag Chewing." Based on this popular activity, it seems only right that rag chewing should be acknowledged as a truly ham activity. For anyone not familiar with the term, rag chewing isn't just contacting someone. It involves actually conversing, talking and listening for more than a few minutes. Have you ever had a ham QSO and later wrote the time down in the logbook and wondered "Where did the time go?" Congratulations, you are a bona fide "Rag Chewer!"

SPAR
Society For The Preservation Of Amateur Radio
R.C.C.
This is to certify that
Joe A Ham ZZ1AAA
is a member station of the
Rag Chewers' Club
and is entitled to all the privileges, prerogatives, rights, favors, glory, rank, fame, notoriety, popularity and honor associated with membership in that worthy organization.
In accepting this certificate, the member agrees to abide by all the rules of this illustrious organization.
CW
Phone
Digital
www.spar-hams.org
N° 0001
The Old Sock

To qualify for the Rag Chewers' Club award, you need to submit a report of having had a 2 way QSO (not a net) using amateur radio that lasted at least 30 minutes. RCC members are encouraged to invite new hams of any age or license class to apply for the award. Of course, all the rules and regulations pertaining to the Amateur Radio Service must be followed during any QSO.

I think I'll contact SPAR and see if I can get one of the new awards using my 1953 info and a copy of the QSL card. Who knows, just maybe I will get one.

ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA
U.S.A.
W6UJO
Radio Confirming QSO SEPT. 8 1953 At 1552 P.S.T.
Ur 71 Me. CW PHONE Sigs R 5 S 5 T 9 Conds. Fair
Xmtr VIKING II 100 w. input Rcvr 540B Ant LONG WIRE
Remarks TNX FER FB QSO - IVE SENT UR CALL IN A.R.R.L. & R.C.C.
PSE QSL TNX
Eugene A. Schmitt
P. O. Box 261
CUL

Another bites the dust

Date: May 25, 2015 8:28 PM

Last day of the DxpeditionJust a little bit ago, I worked this station using the digital mode JT65-HF pushing the same wattage of 30:IT9CCB dB sent: -13 / dB rcvd: -21 (meaning my out signal was decent and the inbound signal from over there was difficult w/ QRM mixed in).

P.S. Just a side note: Finally worked a WV station on the same mode today.A bit of chasing to get the QSO, but worth it. I only need VT to apply for my W.A.S. award & wall plaque.

In the process of completing my SSB voice logs for submittal to get the W.A.S. award & wall plaque.

Next up: PSK31:E6ZS

Digital mode: JT65-HF 14.076 dB sent: -22 / dB

Just finished a QSO using the JT65-HF program

Who?

LY2VM

dB sent was: -13 (pretty decent - not to difficult)

dB rcvd was: -10 (again, pretty decent signal on his/her end from me)

Marcus, KI6WDX, 7 3

For Sale

Yamaha 2400 watt generator with less than 30 hours on it. Purchased it for $1400 dollars and selling it for $1000.00 dollars cash firm.

Contact - Robert Marsh at:

Sam8472@sbcglobal.net or

650-676-9214.

I do have pictures if you would like them sent to you,

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely. May 2015 Dues are owed ANNUALLY on your original billing date

Full Name: _____	MEMBER Dues --------- $25.00 _____
Handle: _____ Call Sign_____	Each Family Member -- $ 2.00 _____
Street Address: _____	Student ---------- $ 5.00 _____
City: _____Zip: _____	Repeater/Autopatch donation ---_____
Phone 1st: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)	Call/Name badge -------- $11.00 _____
Phone 2nd: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)	
License Class: _____ ARRL Memeber ?(_____)	Optional ARRL membership
E-Mail Address_____	When accompanied with ARRL
FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)	Renewal/Application form
Name: _____Handle: _____	ARRL dues ----------_____
Call Sign_____License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)	Total ----------_____
Name: _____Handle: _____	Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
Call Sign_____License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)	Date:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143